



# The Dead Horse

May 2011

# DISPATCH

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

## A Sign of the Times Changing at DHRSP



Rangers and volunteers have been putting up signs at each site. A piece at the top flips over to say "Reserved." The signs also contain the number of the campsite and hold a card that tells the dates the campsite is reserved. In general, most folks like the reservation system. Some folks still believe in spontaneous trips, which is great, until the campground is full.

## Park Rangers at DHRSP will continue to offer guided mountain bike rides on Saturdays

Successful 1st class/ride. Feedback was awesome! Riders ranged from 9 to 59 years old, beginner to expert. Even with Avery Surplus there (expert rider, 5th from left), all the participants said they learned something new. Linda Vernier (seated) swore she would never ride down a flight of stairs - 15 minutes later, she was doing it, again & again!



The first group on Saturday, March 26th (from left) are: Don Carlson, Maddie Carlson, Grace Carlson, Linda Vernier, Avery Surplus, Liam Deaver.  
submitted by Randy Victory, Park Ranger II

## Rattlers at DHRSP



Yes, the rattlers are out at Dead Horse. This fine looking Arizona Diamondback was spotted stretched out in the sun near Los Alamos. Unfortunately, he was in the middle of the road, so while Nan Hephner and Maryan Pharo protected the snake from cars and the curious, Ranger Randy Victory scooped him up and deposited him (or her) in the bushes.

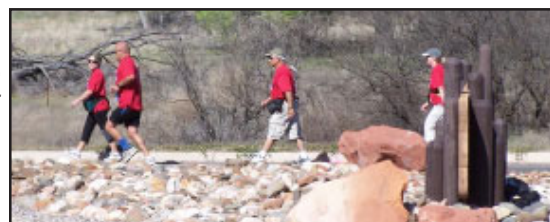
## Ranger-led Hikes of DHRSP

The hikes are going well. The first two covered our beautiful riparian areas we have along the Verde River. Some of the guests were able to mark off the Common Black hawk from their lifetime birding list. They got great pictures as the hawk posed for them. We've also covered the Tavasci Marsh area twice. Thanks to Carol Johnson who led one hike to Tuzigoot. A rattle snake was reported on the trail one of those days but it was in the afternoon, after the hike. The next hike will cover the prairie areas up Lime Kiln to check out wild flowers there. We've quite a bit of activity amongst the flora and fauna of the park.

submitted by Ranger Margie Sanchez

Hi to all: Just to let you all know we are alive and well in Benson, AZ, enjoying glorious warm temperatures and sunshine. We are excited about adopting a new dog from the local shelter. He is on loan to make sure we are up to training a 4 month old puppy, and so far so good. Dan and I are both doing great. We will leave here 5/10. I have got to run... Need to go adopt a puppy. His name: Allee (the male version of Ali), Johns (Dan's middle name). He has to have a middle name if he ever gets scolded. Love and hugs to all, Dan & Margo Albright

## Mickelson Memorial Run



On April 16th, some ran, others walked and still others pushed children in carriages, at the annual Mickelson half-marathon, which ran through DHRSP again this year. Some paused to tour the lagoons during the 13-mile event.

This group of girls (some had already run the Race) stayed until the very end, so that even those bringing up the last of the groups would have someone to cheer them on.







Maryan Pharo gets ready to throw while the cheering section lends encouragement and support to the players.



Ranger Margie Sanchez demonstrates her throwing form, which led the women's duo to a second place.



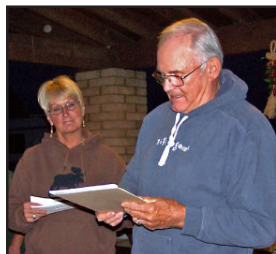
Ranger Eric Buzonas demonstrates his follow-through at the horseshoe finals in March.



John Ward gave a mighty throw and demonstrated winning form at the finals of the Horseshoe Tournament.

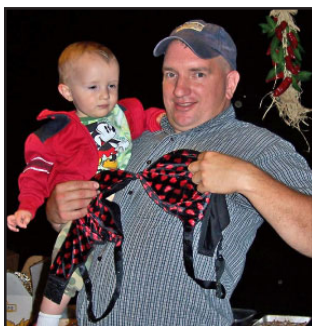


The winners were John Ward, left, and Eric Buzonas, right. The women, Maryan Pharo and Ranger Margie Sanchez, came in second in the horseshoe tournament, but did a great job representing the female gender for the first time in tournament history.



## Horseshoe & Baggo Tournament

Karen and Emerson Trushell pulled the horseshoe and baggo tournaments together this year in a big way, creating teams, bringing drinks and snacks to all the contests, and gathering up a bunch of prizes so that no one who played could be called a loser. Thanks, guys!



"Oh my gosh! I don't know this man!" Nathan doesn't seem in the least amused by his dad's "booby prize" from the horseshoe tournament.



The judges sampling all seven chilies entered in the cookoff are Ranger Margie Sanchez, Ranger Randy Victory and former DHRSP volunteer Cyril Soukup. They declared Janet and Bill Birtwell as the winners and Randall Hauk (husband of Ranger Linda Hauk) came in second.



When the chow line opened, it didn't take long for a crowd to gather: Left to right, Manager George Christian fills his plate, Jerrie Mathews samples Rose Larramore's fried alligator; Carol Johnson, Karen Trushel, Bill LaFleur and Emerson Trushel study the vittles carefully before choosing a dish.

Ranger Randy Victory took his judging assignment very seriously, lining up his seven cups so that he could savor each of the entries before judging. Volunteer Janet Birtwell looks on. She and husband Bill turned out to be the winners!







Art & Patricia Enockson got a good laugh over Art's special gift, a yellow T-shirt featuring the phrase "Come on Honey!", which people like to shout at him. The shirt was awarded at the Cowboy Potluck.



Emerson Trushel, Art & Patricia Enockson, Nathan & Eric Buzonas.  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Bill LaFleur, Sharon & Gary Munson  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Anna Johnson & Nan Hephner  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Bob Akey & Norm Hephner  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Bill Fritz & Jake Pratt share some conversation before the food line opened.



Bud & Loma Jenkins  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Nathan & Eric Buzonas



Carol & Anna Johnson  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Ernie O'Toole, Pat Rhodes, Keven Ward, Jerrie Matthews  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Wanda & John Ward



Macee Cook & Kayla Conklin-Peralta  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Rose Larramore, Randall Hauk, Bill Fritz, Frank Larramore, Ernie O'Toole, Jerrie Matthews  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Mary Soukup, Bill Bean, John Ward, Maxine Bean  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Marjie & Bernie Sanchez  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell

Please note: all photos and stories were submitted by Editor Nan Hephner unless otherwise noted.





## Nan's Notes:

*Report from Editor Nan on the road again! All stories & photos are submitted by Nan, except where mentioned.*

around the park, looking for a site. In the photo right, four rigs were already parked in the two spaces, as two more rigs came into the park. In the office, folks line up clear out the door waiting to ask a question or get their site. All sites with electric posts are now \$25. All sites are reservable and everything (including cabins and gift shop) is done in the new system. New phones have helped immensely. Ranger Max Castillo purchased a base phone and three handsets, so the window person now has a phone and takes many of the reservations. In time, the old system will be eliminated, along with a lot of paperwork.

There have been a lot of changes at the Visitor Center since the reservation system was dropped on office workers in March. Now all campers must stop their rigs at the two parking spots just beyond the VC, and come in to either present their reservation or to be assigned a site. No more rigs are wandering



## Volunteer News Coming

- \* Gale & Judy Schmidt, 5/1, Raven Loop hosts
- \* Dave & Carolyn Abbott, 5/1, Quail maint
- \* Charles & Billie Castle, 5/1, Raven maint
- \* Betty Hall, 5/1, Coopers Hawk host
- \* Roy & Judith Farmer, 5/1, Cabin hosts

## Going

- \* Nan & Norm Hephner, (Colorado by way of Kentucky & Michigan)
- \* Frank & Rose, 5/1, (Trails End RV Park, Camp Verde)
- \* Jerrie Matthews (here 1 month) 4/30
- \* Jim Harris & Maryan Pharo, 4/30, Granby, CO
- \* Gary & Sharon Munson, 4/30, (Benton, NH)
- \* Karen & Emerson Trushel, 4/30, (Chardon, OH, via Santa Fe & Taos, NM)
- \* John & Wanda Ward, 5/25, (Look out Canada!)

## Dates to Remember in May

- 4/30-5/8 Ranger-led mountain bike rides on Saturdays & Ranger-led hikes on Sundays
- 5/2-Volunteer Meeting, 9:30am, VRG studio
- 4/28-5/1 Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival
- 5/16-Volunteer Meeting, 9:30am, VRG studio

## Cowboy Chili Cookoff cont.



Maxine & Bill Bean, Karen Trushel, Peter Adress, Wanda Ward  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell

## May Milestones

- 7-Maxine Bean
- 9-Indigo Canter
- 16-Carolyn Scott
- 21-Bill Bean
- 26-Jim & Marilyn Aker (1962)
- 29-Maryan & Jim Harris (1994)
- 29-Jake Pratt
- 30-Judson Munsell

*Carolyn and all workers at the park, as well as Les. Thanks again for the news. It is nice to keep up with the ones we knew while there. Sue Neal*

## British-Euro Auto Tour



Stylish British-made cars and drivers made their way to the Lagoon area April 16, to visit with fellow drivers and compare notes during the British-Euro Auto Tour. The group paraded into the park for a brief stay, attracting many onlookers.

The Morgan Aero8 (below) made a striking appearance



before drivers headed further up the road to have their pictures taken with their vehicles.

In bright shades of yellow and red, one couldn't help but notice these two Lotus

entries in the event (right). Not a speck of dust can be seen on these cars, and that isn't easy in this period of windy and sometimes rainy and dusty conditions.



Carol Johnson & Mary Soukup  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Mary Soukup, Bob Akey, Keven Ward  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Patricia Enockson & Rose Larramora  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell



Bob Akey & Norm Hephner  
photo by Bill & Janet Birtwell